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(54) **CUTTING PROCESS SIMULATION METHOD AND SYSTEM THEREOF**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a cutting process simulation method and a system thereof which can efficiently optimize the decommissioning process of a nuclear facility, thereby saving costs and time and ensuring safety in the decommissioning process. The cutting process simulation system, according to one embodiment of the present invention, may comprise: a display unit; and a control unit which cuts a cutting target in a nuclear facility by using a design program, displays the cut shape on the display unit, and predicts the amount of secondary waste generated in the process of cutting the cutting target.

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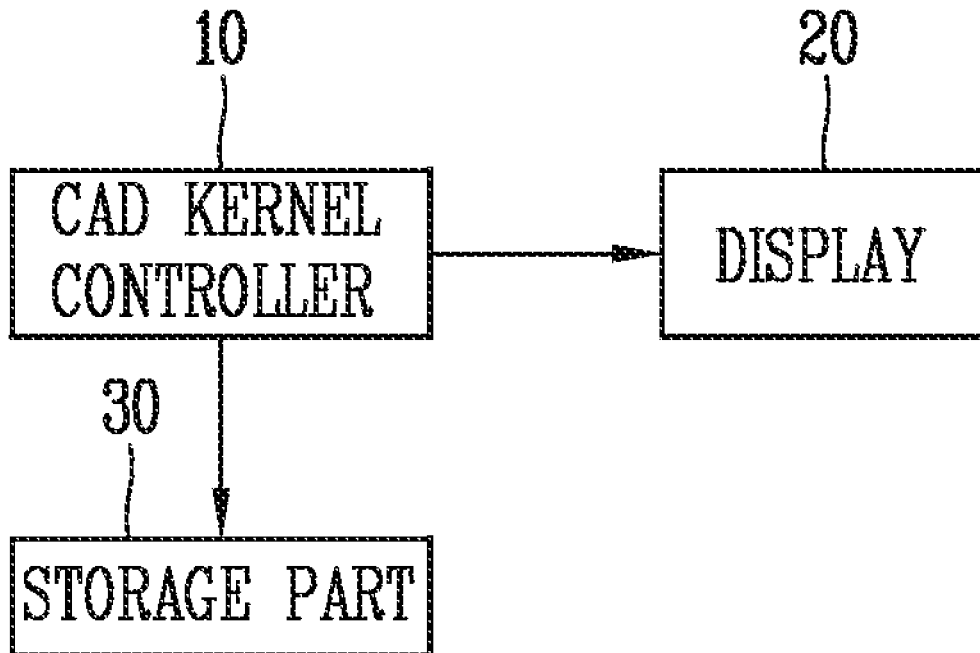


FIG. 1

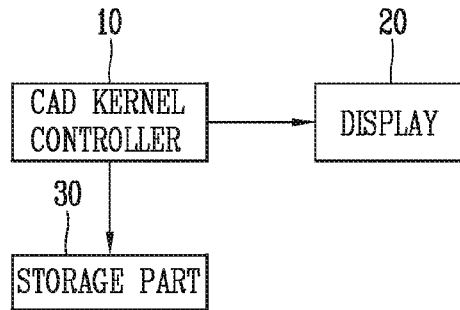


FIG. 2

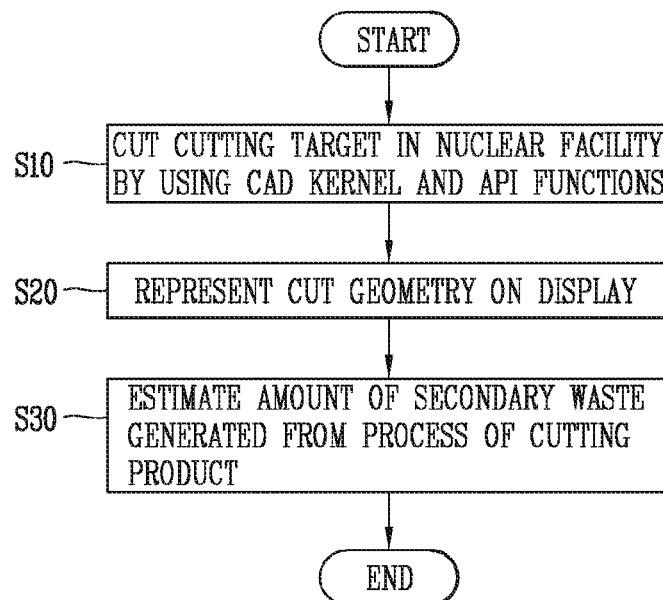


FIG. 3A

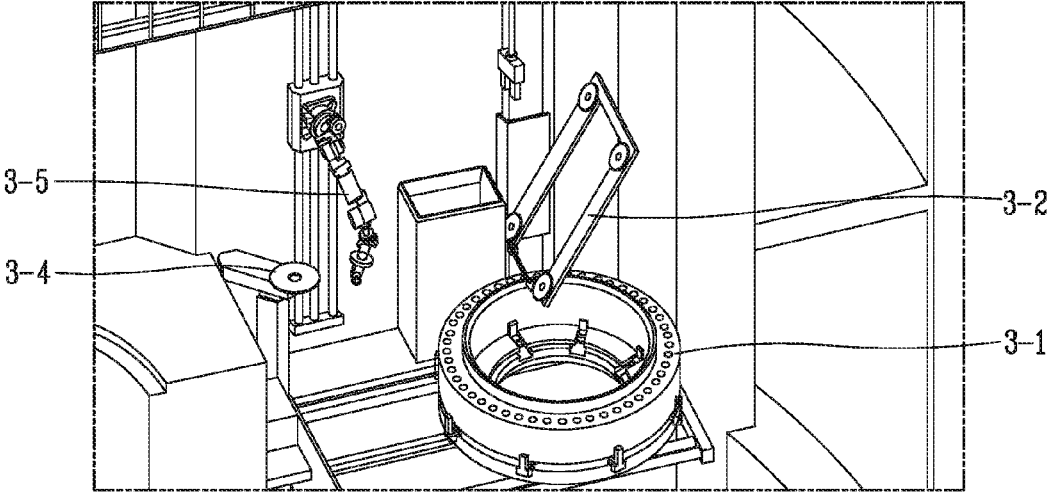


FIG. 3B

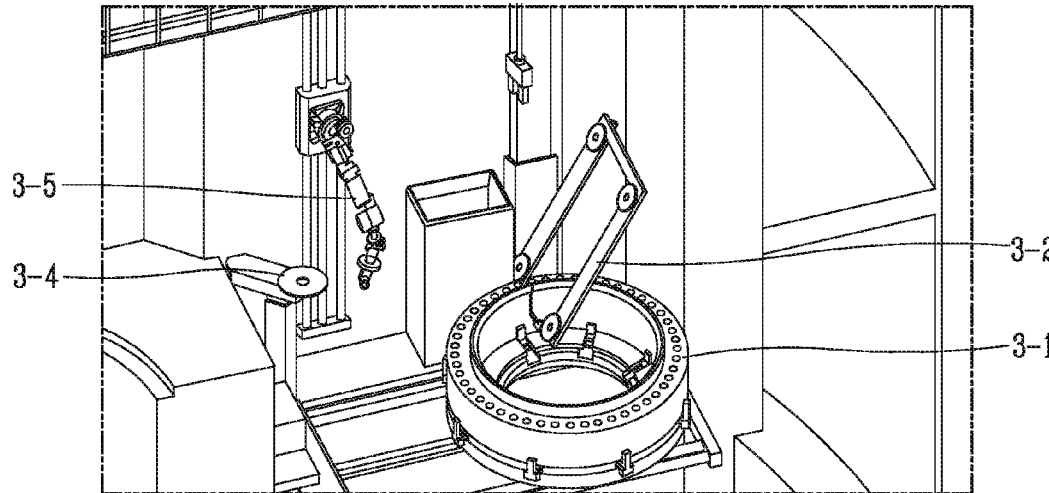
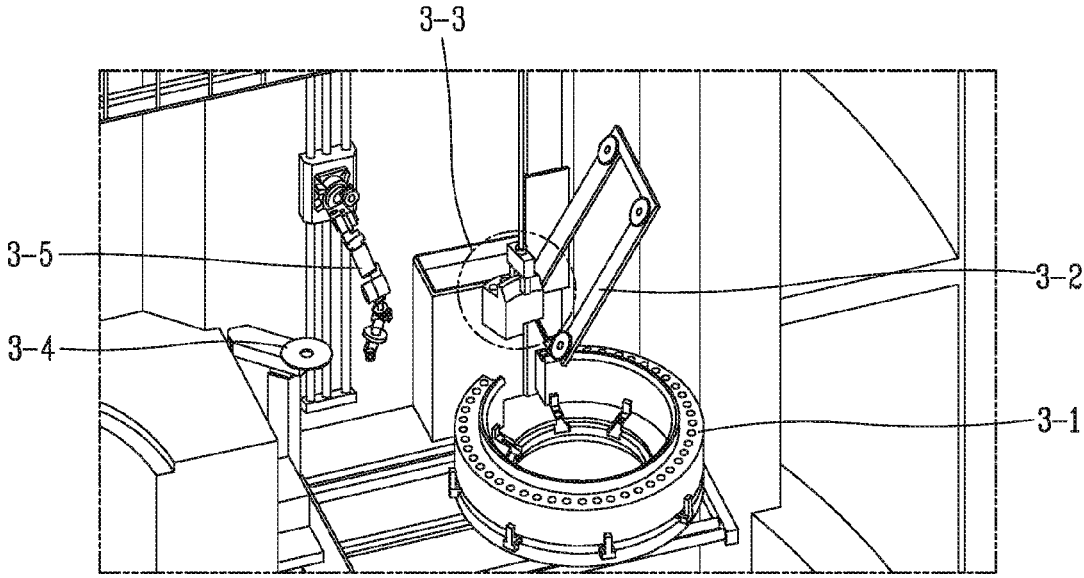


FIG. 3C



## CUTTING PROCESS SIMULATION METHOD AND SYSTEM THEREOF

### TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a cutting process simulation method and system which use a design program.

### BACKGROUND ART

[0002] In general, nuclear facility decommissioning is a process that is cost- and time-consuming and dangerous, so it is necessary to reduce costs and time through optimization and improve safety by evaluating the risk of the process in advance. Nuclear facility decommissioning always involves cutting large-scale structures. However, the existing process simulation programs have no function of simulating the cutting process. This makes it difficult to use them for optimization of the decommissioning process.

### DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Therefore, an object of the present invention is to provide a cutting process simulation system and method which can save the cost and time required for decommissioning and ensure safety by efficiently optimizing nuclear facility decommissioning.

[0004] To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the present invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, there is provided a cutting process simulation system, including: a display; and a controller that cuts a product corresponding to a facility in a nuclear plant by using a design program, that represents a cut geometry on the display, and that estimates the amount of secondary waste generated from the process of cutting the product.

[0005] According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the design program may be a CAD (computer-aided design) program.

[0006] According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the product may be cut by using the CAD program and API (application programming interface) functions.

[0007] According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the controller may create a cut geometry for cutting the product into a solid model by using cutting tools and a cutting trajectory, and represent a cut geometry with a thickness and depth on the display by performing a remove operation on the product according to the model of the cut geometry.

[0008] According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the controller may represent cases where the product is cut but cannot be cut, where the product is cut into two parts, and where the product is cut into three or more parts.

[0009] According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, if there is an overlap between the product and the cut geometry, the controller may determine that cutting has been done, and if there is no overlap between the product and the cut geometry, the controller may determine that no cutting has been done.

[0010] According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the controller may calculate the volume of the geometry of an intersection between the product and the cut geometry by performing an intersect operation on the product and the cut geometry, and estimate the amount of

secondary waste generation by multiplying the calculated volume and the density of the product.

[0011] According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the controller may cut the product repeatedly.

[0012] A cutting process simulation method according to an exemplary embodiment of this document may include: cutting a product corresponding to a facility in a nuclear plant by using a design program; representing the cut geometry on a display; and estimating the amount of secondary waste generated from the process of cutting the product.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] FIG. 1 is a view showing a cutting process simulation system using a CAD kernel according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

[0014] FIG. 2 is a flowchart showing a cutting process simulation system using a CAD kernel according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention; and

[0015] FIGS. 3A through 3C are illustrations of a simulation of a process for dismantling (cutting) a reactor pressure vessel head by using a CAD kernel according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

### MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0016] It is to be noted that technical terms used in this specification are used to describe only specific embodiments and are not intended to limit the present invention. Furthermore, the technical terms used in this specification should be construed as having meanings that are commonly understood by those skilled in the art to which the present invention pertains unless especially defined as different meanings otherwise in this specification, and should not be construed as having excessively comprehensive meanings or excessively reduced meanings. Furthermore, if the technical terms used in this specification are wrong technical terms that do not precisely represent the spirit of the present invention, they should be replaced with technical terms that may be correctly understood by those skilled in the art and understood. Furthermore, common terms used in the present invention should be interpreted in accordance with the definition of dictionaries or in accordance with the context, and should not be construed as having excessively reduced meanings.

[0017] Furthermore, an expression of the singular number used in this specification includes an expression of the plural number unless clearly defined otherwise in the context. In this application, terms, such as "comprise" and "include", should not be construed as essentially including all several components or several steps described in the specification, but the terms may be construed as not including some of the components or steps or as including additional component or steps.

[0018] Furthermore, terms including ordinal numbers, such as the first and the second which are used in this specification, may be used to describe a variety of components, but the components should not be limited to the terms. The terms are used to only distinguish one component from the other component. For example, a first component may be named a second component and likewise a second compo-

ment may be named a first component without departing from the scope of the present invention.

[0019] Hereinafter, exemplary embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. The same or similar components are assigned the same reference numerals regardless of their reference numerals, and a redundant description thereof is omitted.

[0020] In describing the present invention, when it is deemed that a detailed description of known functions or configurations may unnecessarily obscure the subject matter of the present invention, the detailed description will be omitted.

[0021] Also, it should be noted that the drawings are provided only for better understanding of the present invention, and therefore should not be construed as limiting the spirit and scope of this invention.

[0022] Hereinafter, a cutting process simulation method and system using a design program (e.g., computer-aided design (CAD) kernel) will be described with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2, which can represent a cut geometry created in a cutting process, estimate the amount of secondary waste generated from the cutting process, and reduce the data capacity of cut objects even if the cut objects are cut over and over again repeatedly in the cutting process.

[0023] Since a cutting process simulation method and system according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention run on a CAD kernel, they may be implemented through data types in the CAD kernel and API (application programming interface) functions.

[0024] The data types in the CAD kernel may be defined as follows:

[0025] product: A file format that defines information on a product consisting of one or more “parts”

[0026] part: A file format that consists of one or more bodies and defines information on one part. It includes one body as default when first created, and the name of this “body” is defined as “partbody”.

[0027] body: A set that defines information on one or more geometries. It belongs to a part

[0028] topVolume: A set that represents one or more volumes by topology

[0029] topSolid: A set that represents one or more faces by topology

[0030] specObj: Data that represents geometry information by specification

[0031] specSet: A specObj set

[0032] fVol, fWeight<sub>2nd waste</sub>: Real number

[0033] nVol, nFac, nPart, l<sub>j</sub>: Integer value

[0034] bResult: Boolean value

[0035] In the CAD kernel, “topology”-type data is the data type used to perform geometrical operations such as “Remove”, “Intersect”, “CreateCloseSurface”, etc., and needs to be converted into “specObj”-type data. A body is compatible with “specObj”.

[0036] The API functions may be defined as follows:

[0037] CreateNewPart( ): Create a new file as a part

[0038] GetParentProduct(part): Get information on a product to which a part belongs

[0039] Append(set): A corresponding file is appended to a set

[0040] GetBody(part, bodyname): Get information on a body by retrieving the bodyname from a part.

[0041] Copy(body, part): Copy and paste a body to a part

[0042] Intersect(Body<sub>1</sub>, body<sub>2</sub>): Perform an Intersect operation on body<sub>1</sub> and body<sub>2</sub>

[0043] GetVolume(Body): Calculate the volume of a body as a real number

[0044] GetDensity(body): Get density information from a body’s material information

[0045] Remove(Body<sub>1</sub>, body<sub>2</sub>): Perform an Remove operation to remove body<sub>2</sub> from body<sub>1</sub>

[0046] GetResults(body): Get the final results of a body by topology

[0047] GetAllCells(topology, cell): Get topology information corresponding to cells(Volume=3, Face=2, Edge=1, Point=0) from topology

[0048] SizeOf(data): Calculate the number of data units

[0049] Featurize(topology): Convert topology to specObj

[0050] CreateAssemble(specSet): Convert specSet to one specObj

[0051] CreateCloseSurface(specObj): Create a solid from face(s) defined by specObj

[0052] Delete(data): Delete data

[0053] FIG. 1 is a view showing a cutting process simulation system using a CAD kernel according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0054] FIG. 2 is a flowchart showing a cutting process simulation system using a CAD kernel according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0055] First of all, a CAD controller (CAD kernel controller) 10 cuts a product, which is to be dismantled from a nuclear facility (S10), by using a CAD kernel and API functions, and represents (displays) the cut geometry on a display 20 (S20). For example, the CAD controller 10 creates a cut geometry (part<sub>Cutter</sub>) for cutting the product into a solid model by using cutting tools and a cutting trajectory, and represents a physical cut geometry with a thickness and depth by performing a remove operation on the product according to the model of the cut geometry (part<sub>Cutter</sub>).

[0056] The cut geometry (part<sub>Cutter</sub>) refers to a part having a cut geometry defined by the cutting tools and the cutting trajectory.

[0057] FIGS. 3A through 3C are illustrations of a simulation of a process for dismantling (cutting) a reactor pressure vessel head by using a CAD kernel according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0058] As illustrated in FIGS. 3A and 3B, the CAD controller 10 cuts a product (e.g., a reactor pressure vessel head) 3-1, which is to be dismantled from a nuclear facility, by using cutting tools 3-2, 3-4, and 3-5 and a cutting trajectory.

[0059] As illustrated in FIG. 3C, the CAD controller 10 creates a cut geometry (part<sub>Cutter</sub>) for cutting the product 3-1 into a solid model by using the cutting tools and the cutting trajectory, and represents the model of the cut geometry (part<sub>Cutter</sub>) 3-3 on the display 20. The cut geometry (part<sub>Cutter</sub>) may be defined variously by the product, the types of the cutting tools 3-2, 3-4, and 3-5, and the cutting trajectory. The CAD controller 10 may select various cutting tools and various cutting trajectories to cut the product 301 according to user input. Here, the reactor pressure vessel head may be cut into several tens or hundreds of pieces.

[0060] The CAD controller 10 may represent all possible cases in the cutting process, where the product cannot be

machined, where the product is cut but cannot be cut, where the product is cut into two parts, and where the product is cut into three or more parts.

**[0061]** The CAD controller **10** may determine whether cutting has been done or not (bResult). For example, if there is an overlap between the product and the cut geometry (part<sub>Cutter</sub>), cutting has been done and therefore the CAD controller **10** determines the bResult as “TRUE”, and if there is no overlap between the product and the cut geometry (part<sub>Cutter</sub>), no cutting has been done and therefore the CAD controller **10** determines the bResult as “FALSE”.

**[0062]** The CAD controller **10** may determine the number of times the product is cut. For example, even if the product is cut, it cannot be said that cutting has been done unless the product is cut into two or more parts. Thus, if the number of times the product is cut is 1 and the product is cut into two or more parts, the CAD controller **10** determines that cutting has been done.

**[0063]** The CAD controller **10** estimates the amount (mass) of secondary waste generated from the cutting process (S30). For example, the CAD controller **10** calculates the volume of the geometry of an intersection between the product and the cut geometry (e.g., cutter) by performing an intersect operation on the product and the cut geometry, and estimates the amount of secondary waste generation by multiplying the calculated volume and the density of the product. Here, if the product is made of wood, the secondary waste may be sawdust, and if the product is made of metal, the secondary waste may be metal pieces, etc. The secondary waste may be radioactively-contaminated material and therefore may be disposed of.

**[0064]** The input and output of a cutting process simulation according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention refer to information on “partbody” which every CAD file commonly has. Thus, no error occurs even if the output is used again as the input, and this allows infinite repetitions of cutting. Also, since a topological geometry is used to save a cut geometry as a CAD file, the data capacity does not increase even if a cutting operation is repeated. Hence, there is no overload caused by an increase in data capacity even if the product (or part) is cut several hundreds of times or more.

**[0065]** In a general CAD file, information on past operations may be saved in a specification history, and geometry can be easily changed by modifying operational parameters. However, the data capacity of the specification history increases with increasing number of repetitions of operations. As such, if a large-scale structure several is cut hundreds of times or more, as in the process of decommissioning a nuclear facility, this will bring about instability due to an increase in data capacity. By contrast, the cutting process simulation method and system according to the present invention use a topological geometry with no specification history, and therefore the data capacity does not increase even if the product (or part) is repeatedly cut. Data, etc. corresponding to the topological geometry is saved in a storage part **30**.

**[0066]** A cutting process simulation algorithm according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention is described in pseudocode.

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03: product = GetParentProduct(partProduct)
04: part1 = Append(product)
05: bodyProduct,partbody = GetBody(partProduct, partbody)
06: bodypart1,Product = Copy(bodyProduct,partbody, part1)
07: bodyCutter,partbody = GetBody(partCutter, partbody)
08: bodypart1,Cutter = Copy(bodyCutter,partbody, part1)
09: bodypart1,Intersect = Intersect(bodypart1,Product, bodypart1,Cutter)
10: fVolIntersect = GetVolume(bodypart1,Intersect)
11: fWeight2nd waste = fVolIntersect * GetDensity(bodypart1,Product)
12: if fVolIntersect == 0,
13: nPart = 1
14: bResult = FALSE
15: Delete(part1)
16: return bResult, nPart, fWeight2nd waste
17: endif
18: bodypart1,Remove = Remove(bodypart1,Product, bodypart1,Cutter)
19: topSolidbody,Remove = GetResults(bodypart1,Remove)
20: topVolume = GetAllCells(topSolidbody,Remove, Volume)
21: nVol = SizeOf(topVolume)
22: topFace = GetAllCells(topVolume1, Face)
23: nFac = SizeOf(topFace)
24: for i = 1; i <= nFac; i++,
25: specObj = Featurize(topFacei)
26: specSet = Append(specObj)
27: endfor
28: specObj = CreateAssemble(specSet)
29: bodypart1,CloseSurface = CreateCloseSurface(specObj)
30: topSolidbody,CloseSurface = GetResults(bodypart1,CloseSurface)
31: bodypart1,partbody = GetBody(part1, partbody)
32: bodypart1,partbody = Copy(topSolidbody,CloseSurface, part1)
33: for i = 1; i < nVol; i++,
34: parti+1 = CreateNewPart( );
35: parti+1 = Append(product)
36: topFace = GetAllCells(topVolumei+1, Face)
37: nFac = SizeOf(topFace)
38: for j = 1; j <= nFac; j++,
39: specObj = Featurize(topFacej)
40: specSet = Append(specObj)
41: endfor
42: specObj = CreateAssemble(specSet)
43: bodypart1,CloseSurface = CreateCloseSurface(specObj)
44: topSolidbody,Closesurface = GetResults(bodypart1,CloseSurface)
45: bodypart1+1,partbody = GetBody(parti+1, partbody)
46: bodypart1+1,partbody = Copy(topSolidbody,Closesurface, parti+1)
47: endfor
48: Delete(bodypart1,Product)
49: Delete(bodypart1,Cutter)
50: Delete(bodypart1,Intersect)
51: Delete(bodypart1,Remove)
52: bResult = TRUE
53: nPart = nVol
54: return bResult, nPart, fWeight2nd waste

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**[0067]** part<sub>Product</sub>: A part corresponding to a product

**[0068]** part<sub>Cutter</sub>: A part corresponding to a cut geometry

**[0069]** body<sub>Product,partbody</sub>: A body corresponding to a partbody that defines a product which is subordinate to part<sub>product</sub>

**[0070]** body<sub>part1,Product</sub>: A body corresponding to a product which is subordinate to part<sub>1</sub>

**[0071]** body<sub>Cutter,partbody</sub>: A body corresponding to a partbody that defines a cut geometry (cutter) which is subordinate to part<sub>Cutter</sub>

**[0072]** body<sub>part1,Cutter</sub>: A body corresponding to a cut geometry (cutter) which is subordinate to part<sub>1</sub>

**[0073]** body<sub>part1,Intersect</sub>: A body corresponding to a result of Intersect operation which is subordinate to part<sub>1</sub>

**[0074]** body<sub>part1,Remove</sub>: A body corresponding to a result of Remove operation which is subordinate to part<sub>1</sub>

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01: PartCutting(part<sub>Product</sub>, Part<sub>Cutter</sub>)  
02: part<sub>1</sub> = CreateNewPart( );

**[0075]** topSolid<sub>body.Remove</sub>: A topological solid into which the final results of body<sub>part1.Remove</sub> are transformed

**[0076]** Pseudocode Analysis

**[0077]** 02-08: Create a new part<sub>1</sub>, place it under the existing product, and then copy Product and Cutter to the new file since an operation object has to be placed in a file so as to perform a cutting operation

**[0078]** 09-11: Calculate the volume of an intersection by performing an Intersect operation on Product and Cutter and estimate the amount (fWeight<sub>2nd waste</sub>) of secondary waste generation

**[0079]** 12-17: If the volume of the intersection obtained by the Intersect operation is 0, this means that no cutting has been done. So, set nPart to 1, set bResult to FALSE, delete the part<sub>1</sub> (cut-out), and then terminate the algorithm

**[0080]** 18-21: Implement cutting by performing a Remove operation and calculate the number of volumes created by cutting by calculating nVol

**[0081]** 22-32: Collect the faces of the first volume created by Remove operation to create a topSolid and copy it to the partbody of the part<sub>1</sub> (cut-out)

**[0082]** 33-47: If nVol is equal to or greater than 2, repeat the operation of transforming topVolume<sub>i+1</sub> into a topSolid and copying it to the partbody of a part<sub>i+1</sub> (nVol-1) times

**[0083]** 48-54: Delete all the bodies from the part1 (cut-out), except the partbody, set bResult to TRUE and set nPart to nVol, and terminate the algorithm

**[0084]** As explained above, the cutting process simulation method and system according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention create a cut-out by defining input parameters with respect to a partbody, which is created for every part. Thus, no error occurs when a cut part is cut over again, and this allows infinite repetitions of cutting.

**[0085]** In the cutting process simulation method and system according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a cut-out is saved in the form of "topSolid", rather than in the form of "specObj", and therefore operations such as "Remove", "Intersect", etc. by a CAD kernel can be performed when a cut-out is cut over again. At the same time, this method and system can be run stably even if the cut-out is cut repeatedly several hundreds of times or more, because there is no increase in the capacity of the cut-out.

**[0086]** The cutting process simulation method and system according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention can represent all possible cases that may occur in a cutting process, by implementing cutting when simulating the cutting process. For example, this method and system may represent cases where a cutting tool does not make contact with a product since a cutting trajectory is erroneously defined, where the product is machined but cannot be cut since it is not divided, where the product is machined and cut since it is divided into two, and where the product is cut into multiple pieces since it is divided into three or more by performing the cutting process just once.

**[0087]** The cutting process simulation method and system according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention can estimate the amount of secondary waste generated from a cutting process.

**[0088]** The cutting process simulation method and system according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention can be used to develop software which is capable of simulating the entire decommissioning process in conjunction with the existing commercially-available software since they use a CAD kernel.

**[0089]** The cutting process simulation method and system according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention can save the cost and time required for decommissioning and ensure safety by efficiently optimizing nuclear facility decommissioning

**[0090]** The cutting process simulation method and system according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention can represent a cut geometry created in a cutting process and estimate the amount of secondary waste generated from the cutting process.

**[0091]** The cutting process simulation method and system according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention can reduce the data capacity of cut objects even if the cut objects are cut over and over again repeatedly in the cutting process.

1. A cutting process simulation system comprising:
  - a display that displays a product; and
  - a controller that cuts a product corresponding to a facility in a nuclear plant by using a design program and that represents a cut geometry on the display.
2. The cutting process simulation system of claim 1, wherein the controller estimates the amount of secondary waste generated from the process of cutting the product.
3. The cutting process simulation system of claim 1, wherein the design program is a CAD (computer-aided design) program.
4. The cutting process simulation system of claim 3, wherein the product is cut by using the CAD program and API (application programming interface) functions.
5. The cutting process simulation system of claim 4, wherein the controller models a cut geometry for cutting the product as a solid by using cutting tools and a cutting trajectory, and represents a cut geometry with a thickness and depth on the display by performing a remove operation on the product according to the model of the cut geometry.
6. The cutting process simulation system of claim 4, wherein the controller represents cases where the product is cut, where the product is cut but cannot be cut, where the product is cut into two parts, and where the product is cut into three or more parts.
7. The cutting process simulation system of claim 5, wherein, if there is an overlap between the product and the cut geometry, the controller determines that cutting has been done, and if there is no overlap between the product and the cut geometry, the controller determines that no cutting has been done.
8. The cutting process simulation system of claim 2, wherein the controller calculates the volume of the geometry of an intersection between the product and the cut geometry by performing an intersect operation on the product and the cut geometry, and estimates the amount of secondary waste generation by multiplying the calculated volume and the density of the product.
9. The cutting process simulation system of claim 4, wherein the controller cuts the product repeatedly.
10. A cutting process simulation method comprising:
  - displaying a product on a display;
  - cutting the product by using a design program; and
  - representing the cut geometry on the display.
11. The cutting process simulation method of claim 10, further comprising estimating the amount of secondary waste generated from the process of cutting the product.



**12.** The cutting process simulation method of claim **10**, wherein the design program is a CAD (computer-aided design) program.

**13.** The cutting process simulation method of claim **12**, wherein, in the cutting of the product, the product is cut by using the CAD program and API (application programming interface) functions.

**14.** The cutting process simulation method of claim **13**, wherein the representing of the cut geometry comprises:

creating a cut geometry for cutting the product into a solid model by using cutting tools and a cutting trajectory; and

representing a cut geometry with a thickness and depth on the display by performing a remove operation on the product according to the cut geometry.

**15.** The cutting process simulation method of claim **13**, wherein the representing of the cut geometry comprises representing cases where the product is cut, where the product is cut but cannot be cut, where the product is cut into two parts, and where the product is cut into three or more parts.

**16.** The cutting process simulation method of claim **13**, further comprising:

if there is an overlap between the product and the cut geometry, determining that cutting has been done; and

if there is no overlap between the product and the cut geometry, determining that no cutting has been done.

**17.** The cutting process simulation method of claim **11**, wherein the estimating of the amount of secondary waste generation comprises:

calculating the volume of the geometry of an intersection between the product and the cut geometry by performing an intersect operation on the product and the cut geometry; and

estimating the amount of secondary waste generation by multiplying the calculated volume and the density of the product.

**18.** A computer-readable recording medium storing a computer program for implementing a cutting process simulation method comprising:

displaying a product on a display;

cutting the product by using a design program; and

representing the cut geometry on the display.

**19.** A computer program stored in a computer-readable recording medium for implementing a cutting process simulation method comprising:

displaying a product on a display;

cutting the product by using a design program; and

representing the cut geometry on the display.

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